

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter you are filing under:

☒ Chapter 7

☐ Chapter 11

☐ Chapter 12

☐ Chapter 13

☐ Check if this an amended filing

Official Form 101

Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy

12/15

The bankruptcy forms use you and Debtor 1 to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*—and in joint cases, these forms use you to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, “Do you own a car,” the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

Part 1: Identify Yourself

About Debtor 1:

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

1. Your full name

Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport).

Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.

**Kelly**

First name

**R**

Middle name

**Hess**

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

First name

Middle name

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years

Include your married or maiden names.

3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)

xxx-xx-3064

Debtor 1 **Kelly R Hess**

Case number (if known)

**About Debtor 1:**

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

**4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years**

☒ I have not used any business name or EINs.

☐ I have not used any business name or EINs.

Include trade names and *doing business as* names

Business name(s)

Business name(s)

EINs

EINs

**5. Where you live**

**1022 Lincoln Ave  
Apt 3  
Rochelle, IL 61068-2801**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**Ogle**

County

**If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here.** Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

County

**If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here.** Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**6. Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy**

*Check one:*

☒ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason.  
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

*Check one:*

☐ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason.  
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Debtor 1 **Kelly R Hess**

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case**

7. **The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under** *Check one.* (For a brief description of each, see *Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)*). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.
- ☒ Chapter 7
- ☐ Chapter 11
- ☐ Chapter 12
- ☐ Chapter 13
- 
8. **How you will pay the fee** ☐ **I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition.** Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.
- ☒ **I need to pay the fee in installments.** If you choose this option, sign and attach the *Application for Individuals to Pay The Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A).
- ☐ **I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.
- 
9. **Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?** ☒ No.
- ☐ Yes.
- |                |            |                   |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
| District _____ | When _____ | Case number _____ |
- 
10. **Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?** ☒ No.
- ☐ Yes.
- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Debtor _____                | Relationship to you _____ |
| District _____              | When _____                |
| Case number, if known _____ |                           |
| Debtor _____                | Relationship to you _____ |
| District _____              | When _____                |
| Case number, if known _____ |                           |
- 
11. **Do you rent your residence?** ☐ No. Go to line 12.
- ☒ Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you and do you want to stay in your residence?
- ☒ No. Go to line 12.
- ☐ Yes. Fill out *Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You* (Form 101A) and file it with this bankruptcy petition.

Debtor 1 **Kelly R Hess**

Case number (if known)

**Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor**

**12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?**

☒ No. Go to Part 4.

☐ Yes. Name and location of business

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

Name of business, if any

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

*Check the appropriate box to describe your business:*

- ☐ Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
- ☐ Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
- ☐ Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
- ☐ Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
- ☐ None of the above

**13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and are you a small business debtor?**

For a definition of *small business debtor*, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

*If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. 1116(1)(B).*

☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.

☐ No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11 and I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

**Part 4: Report if You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention**

**14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?**

☒ No.

☐ Yes. What is the hazard?

If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed?

*For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?*

Where is the property?

Number, Street, City, State & Zip Code

Debtor 1 **Kelly R Hess**

Case number (if known)

**Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling**

**15. Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.**

The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file.

If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.

**About Debtor 1:**

*You must check one:*

- ☒ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you **MUST** file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy. If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

- ☐ **Incapacity.**  
I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
- ☐ **Disability.**  
My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
- ☐ **Active duty.**  
I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver credit counseling with the court.

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

*You must check one:*

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you **MUST** file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

- ☐ **Incapacity.**  
I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.
- ☐ **Disability.**  
My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.
- ☐ **Active duty.**  
I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

Debtor 1 **Kelly R Hess**

Case number (if known)

**Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes**

16. What kind of debts do you have?	16a.	<b>Are your debts primarily consumer debts?</b> <i>Consumer debts</i> are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."		
		<input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to line 16b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Go to line 17.		
	16b.	<b>Are your debts primarily business debts?</b> <i>Business debts</i> are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.		
		<input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to line 16c. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Go to line 17.		
	16c.	State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts		
<hr/>				
17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?	<input type="checkbox"/> No.	I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.		
Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes.	I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
<hr/>				
18. How many Creditors do you estimate that you owe?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99 <input type="checkbox"/> 100-199 <input type="checkbox"/> 200-999	<input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 5001-10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000	
<hr/>				
19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion	
<hr/>				
20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion	

**Part 7: Sign Below****For you**

I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

**/s/ Kelly R Hess****Kelly R Hess**

Signature of Debtor 1

Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on **September 22, 2016**  
MM / DD / YYYYExecuted on  
MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor 1 **Kelly R Hess**

Case number (if known)

**For your attorney, if you are represented by one**

**If you are not represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.**

I, the attorney for the debtor(s) named in this petition, declare that I have informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each chapter for which the person is eligible. I also certify that I have delivered to the debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D) applies, certify that I have no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with the petition is incorrect.

**/s/ Stephen A. Clark**

Signature of Attorney for Debtor

Date

**September 22, 2016**

MM / DD / YYYY

**Stephen A. Clark**

Printed name

**Stephen A. Clark, Attorney at Law**

Firm name

**PO Box 683**

**DeKalb, IL 60115-0683**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

Contact phone **815-766-2160**

Email address

**sc@clarkbklaw.com**

**6296092**

Bar number & State

B2030 (Form 2030) (12/15)

**United States Bankruptcy Court**  
**Northern District of Illinois**

In re **Kelly R Hess**

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter

**7**

**DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR(S)**

1. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 329(a) and Fed. Bankr. P. 2016(b), I certify that I am the attorney for the above named debtor(s) and that compensation paid to me within one year before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy, or agreed to be paid to me, for services rendered or to be rendered on behalf of the debtor(s) in contemplation of or in connection with the bankruptcy case is as follows:

For legal services, I have agreed to accept .....	\$	<b>707.00</b>
Prior to the filing of this statement I have received .....	\$	<b>707.00</b>
Balance Due .....	\$	<b>0.00</b>

2. The source of the compensation paid to me was:

☒ Debtor ☐ Other (specify):

3. The source of compensation to be paid to me is:

☒ Debtor ☐ Other (specify):

4. ☒ I have not agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with any other person unless they are members and associates of my law firm.

☐ I have agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with a person or persons who are not members or associates of my law firm. A copy of the agreement, together with a list of the names of the people sharing in the compensation is attached.

5. In return for the above-disclosed fee, I have agreed to render legal service for all aspects of the bankruptcy case, including:

- a. Analysis of the debtor's financial situation, and rendering advice to the debtor in determining whether to file a petition in bankruptcy;
- b. Preparation and filing of any petition, schedules, statement of affairs and plan which may be required;
- c. Representation of the debtor at the meeting of creditors and confirmation hearing, and any adjourned hearings thereof;
- d. [Other provisions as needed]

**Negotiations with secured creditors to reduce to market value; exemption planning; preparation and filing of reaffirmation agreements and applications as needed; preparation and filing of motions pursuant to 11 USC 522(f)(2)(A) for avoidance of liens on household goods.**

6. By agreement with the debtor(s), the above-disclosed fee does not include the following service:

**Representation of the debtors in any dischargeability actions, judicial lien avoidances, relief from stay actions or any other adversary proceeding.**

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the foregoing is a complete statement of any agreement or arrangement for payment to me for representation of the debtor(s) in this bankruptcy proceeding.

**September 22, 2016**

*Date*

**/s/ Stephen A. Clark**

**Stephen A. Clark 6296092**

*Signature of Attorney*

**Stephen A. Clark, Attorney at Law**

**PO Box 683**

**DeKalb, IL 60115-0683**

**815-766-2160 Fax: 888-388-5154**

**sc@clarkbklaw.com**

*Name of law firm*



**RETAINER AGREEMENT**

THIS RETAINER AGREEMENT IS MADE BY AND BETWEEN

**Stephen A. Clark, Attorney at Law** (815) 766-2160

**P.O. Box 683**

**DeKalb, IL 60115-0683**

E-mail: **SC@CLARKBKLaw.COM**

(Hereinafter referred to as "**Attorney**," and;)

Kelly R. Hess

1022 Lincoln Ave., Apt. 3

Rochelle, IL 61068

(Hereinafter referred to as "**Client**." )`

Collectively, Attorney and Client are hereinafter referred to as the "**Parties**."

**WITNESSETH**

WHEREAS, Attorney has expertise in the representation of clients in bankruptcy matters and associated proceedings related thereto; and

WHEREAS, Client require the filing of a personal bankruptcy petition; and

WHEREAS, Client desires to retain Attorney to represent him/her with respect to Client's personal bankruptcy matters and to provide such services as an independent contractor, and Attorney is agreeable to such a relationship and/or arrangement, and the Parties desire a written document formalizing and defining their relationship and evidencing the terms of their agreement; and

THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, it is agreed as follows:

1. **Appointment:** Client hereby appoints Attorney as his/her counsel and hereby retains and employs Attorney upon the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

2. **Engagement:** Attorney hereby accepts said Retainer Agreement and agrees to represent Client upon the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

3. **Authority and Description of Services:** During the term of this Agreement Attorney shall provide such professional services and advice in connection with such matters as are specifically requested by Client, or as in the professional judgment of Attorney are reasonably necessary.

a. **Scope of Representation:** Attorney has been engaged to represent Client or the purpose specific description of work to be done on the specific case or matter. Client represents that he/she do(es) not know of any related legal matters that would require our legal services under this agreement. If such matters arise later, you agree that this agreement does not apply to any related legal matter. Therefore, a separate engagement agreement for provision of services and

payment for those services will be required if you wish to engage our law firm to perform legal services pertaining to such matters.

**b. Limited Scope of Representation:** The scope of our representation does not include advice or services regarding accounting, tax, personal financial matters or business management, and related non-legal matters and advice. If you wish for us to consult with other professionals retained by you regarding this matter, we will communicate with you in writing to confirm the scope of such consultations prior to initiating same. The scope of our representation does not include title searches, surveys, inspections, and other non-legal work relating to real estate. You may wish to engage a title insurance company, abstractor, surveyor, or other licensed professional to provide you with these services.

**4. Term of Agreement:** This Agreement shall become effective upon execution hereof and shall continue thereafter and remain in effect until the resolution of the case, or until the earlier termination by one of the Parties as provided herein.

**5. Advance Payment Retainer:**

a. Attorney shall not be obligated to provide the services described herein until an advance payment retainer in the amount of **\$740.00** is received before 30 September 2016.

b. The retainer to be paid under this Agreement is called an advance payment retainer. An advance payment retainer becomes the property of the attorney upon receipt. An advance payment retainer is not deposited in the attorney's trust account but is deposited in the attorney's general account. Services provided by Attorney and costs and expenses incurred in the defense of the case will be charged against the retainer as they are performed or incurred, or as otherwise set forth in this Agreement. On a periodic basis Attorney will render bills to Client showing the amount drawn against the retainer for services rendered and costs and expenses incurred. At the conclusion of the case or earlier termination of this Agreement any surplus of the retainer remaining will be refunded to Client. Attorney has chosen an advance payment retainer in this agreement because Client is a defendant or potentially a defendant in numerous pending and potential lawsuits and in the entry of an adverse judgment, the balance of the retainer would otherwise be subject to the remedies for collection available to the plaintiff.

c. Another type of retainer is called a security retainer. A security retainer remains the property of the client and is required to be deposited in the attorney's trust account. On a periodic basis the attorney renders bills to the client showing the amount due for services rendered and costs and expenses incurred. In the absence of an objection from the client the attorney may draw against the security retainer. At the conclusion of the case or earlier termination of the Attorney-Client relationship, the amount of the security retainer remaining in the trust account will be refunded to the client.

d. Client has the option to decline to pay an advanced payment retainer and insist upon the use of a security retainer. In that event, however, Attorney retains the right to decline the representation of Client and in that case this Agreement shall be immediately terminated and neither of the Parties shall have any further rights against or obligations to the other.

e. Attorney shall provide Client with basic services in connection with Client's Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Basic services include, but are not limited to (1) Review and analyze Client's

financial circumstances based on information provided by Client; (2) If possible and to the extent possible, based on the information provided by Client, advise Client of the Client's pre-filing options, including but not limited to bankruptcy options. (3) Inform Client what information Client needs to provide Attorney in order to allow Attorney to provide appropriate advice and option information, in the event such information Client provided is insufficient. (4) Advise Client of the appropriate requirements in connection with the filing of a Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 bankruptcy, including the duties of Client connected with such filing. (5) Preparation and filing of the petition, schedules and statements. (6) Assuming that a U.S. Bankruptcy proceeding is filed, Attorney services will include all typical Attorney participation required in such proceeding, including but not limited to, appearances at Court hearings, representation at the meeting of creditors, preparation of legal memoranda, communication with opposing counsel and parties, and submitting information pursuant to requests from the trustee, and other routine services not specifically stated. (7) Take creditor calls both pre-filing and post-filing. (8) If Client's proceeding requires additional, but not customary work, Attorney will inform Client directly, and enter into a separate written contract for such services to fully apprise Client of the fees, payment requirements, and expected services to be provided.

f. Parties agree that the following matters are not included within the scope of this Retainer Agreement. Client agrees that, as to the matters listed below, the Attorney will not take action for Client, without a separate Retainer Agreement and payment of an additional advance payment retainer. (1) Motions to Revoke a Discharge. (2) Removal of a pending action in another court. (3) Obtaining title reports. (4) The determination of real estate or tax liens. (5) Appeals to Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, District Court, or Court of Appeals. (6) Correcting credit reports. (7) Negotiations with Check Systems regarding Client. (8) Any adversary proceeding filed by the local panel interim trustee, U.S. Trustee, or any other party on any basis, including, without limitations, proceedings to determine dischargeability of debts, such as those proceedings filed under 11 U.S.C. §§ 523 and 727. (9) Redemption and replacement loan review and motions, and related work pursuant to §722. (10) Client agrees that preparation of amendments to schedules incurring a court filing fee and delays caused by Client's failure to appear at the Meeting of Creditors are also non-basic services.

**6. Duties of Client:** The duties of Client are as follows:

a. Client shall supply Attorney on a regular and timely basis with all information and documents relevant to the issues in the case, or requested by Attorney, or responsive to any discovery initiated in the case.

b. Client shall be responsible for advising Attorney of any information or documents that would affect the accuracy of any prior information given to Attorney.

c. Client shall make herself/himself available for a deposition or examination in the case, if requested.

d. Client shall assist in any negotiations for settlement of the case.

e. Because Attorney shall rely on such information to be supplied by Client, all such information shall be true, accurate, complete, and not misleading, in all respects.

f. Client shall keep herself/himself advised of the progress of the case and shall act diligently and promptly in reviewing materials submitted to her/him by Attorney and shall inform Attorney

of any inaccuracies contained therein or objections thereto within a reasonable time so as to enable Attorney to make any corrections.

g. Client shall otherwise cooperate fully and timely with Attorney to enable Attorney to perform its duties and obligations under this Agreement.

**7. Compensation, Billing, and Payment:** Attorney shall be compensated for services hereunder at the rate of \$225.00 per hour for pre-bankruptcy services to Client. If a Chapter 7 bankruptcy is filed for Client, Attorney shall be paid a flat fee of **\$707.00** for services rendered in connection therewith. In addition to the above amounts, Attorney shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary costs (including \$335.00 case filing fee or Client will pay filing fee in installments directly to the Clerk of the Court or apply for a waiver of the filing fee) and expenses (including **\$33.00** credit report fee and \$17.00 property value report, if necessary) advanced on behalf of Client. On a quarterly basis, or more frequently in the discretion of Attorney, Attorney shall render bills to Client showing the amount earned against the amount of any remaining retainer with the balance due and payable by Client within thirty (30) days of the date of the bill. Any amount remaining unpaid after thirty (30) days shall bear simple interest at a rate of eighteen (18%) per annum. Attorney has a policy that in the event a payment is not made on the date due, then in that event work may be suspended, without notice, until such a time as arrangements have been made for payment.

**8. Termination of Agreement:** This Agreement may be terminated by either party prior to the conclusion of the case by written notice to the other. It is specifically agreed that in the event the Client fails or refuses to cooperate with Attorney or fails or refuses to make timely payment of the compensation set forth in this agreement, Attorney shall have the right to suspend any further performance under this agreement until such time as payment is made, or upon notice to Client, terminate this Agreement and withdraw from the case. In such event all compensation shall become immediately due and payable. This agreement will be terminated 30-days after the closure or dismissal of any Bankruptcy Case filed on the Client's behalf.

**9. Notices:** Notice hereunder may be written or oral and if written, shall be addressed to the party at the address shown above or at such address as the party may designate and may be given in person or by first class mail, postage prepaid, facsimile, or email. Notice in person, by facsimile, or by email shall be effective immediately. Notice by first class mail, postage prepaid, shall be effective three (3) days after mailing.

**10. Default:** In the event Client fails to pay any amount due to Attorney hereunder, Attorney shall be entitled in any action brought to enforce this Agreement to recover all costs and expenses incurred, including reasonable attorney fees.

**11. Return or Records:** Upon termination of this Agreement, Attorney, shall make available to Client all items that are in the control of Attorney that are property of or relate to the case, except that the Attorney may retain copies of anything returned to Client. At the conclusion of this matter, Attorney will retain your legal files for a period of 7 years after we close our file. At the expiration of the 7-year period, we will destroy these files unless you notify us in writing that you wish to take possession of them. We reserve the right to charge administrative fees and costs associated with researching, retrieving, copying and delivering such files.

**12. Disclaimer by Attorney:** Attorney makes no representation to Client or others with respect to the results to be achieved in the case.

13. **Ownership of Materials:** All right, title, and interest in and to materials to be produced by Attorney in connection with this Agreement and other services to be rendered under said Agreement shall be and remain the sole and exclusive property of Attorney, except in the event Client performs fully and timely its obligations hereunder Client shall be entitled to receive, upon request, one copy of all such materials, and shall be entitled to the non-exclusive rights to use all such materials.

14. **Miscellaneous:**

a. Time is hereby made of the essence of this Agreement with respect to the performance by the parties of their respective obligations hereunder.

b. This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties. It is declared by the Parties that there are no other oral or written agreements or understanding between them affecting this Agreement or relating to the business of Attorney. This Agreement supersedes all previous agreements between Attorney and Client. Client has the right to have this engagement agreement reviewed by another law firm prior to signing it. Likewise, Client has the right to review this engagement agreement outside the presence of this law firm and away from the law firm's office prior to signing it. Client understands that Attorney is not retained until the signed original engagement agreement is returned to the law firm, including the corresponding retainer.

c. This Agreement may be modified or amended provided such modifications or amendments are mutually agreed upon by the Parties and that said modifications or amendments are made only by an instrument in writing signed by the Parties or an oral agreement to the extent that the parties carry it out.

d. The failure of either party, at any time to require such performance by any other party shall not be constructed as a waiver of such right to require such performance, and shall in no way affect such party's right to require such performance and shall in no way affect such party's right subsequently to require a full performance hereunder.

e. THIS AGREEMENT IS EXECUTED PURSUANT TO AND SHALL BE INTERPRETED AND GOVERNED FOR ALL PURPOSES BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. ANY ACTION BROUGHT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE BROUGHT IN AND ONLY IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND THE PARTIES WAIVE ANY OBJECTION TO JURISDICTION OR VENUE IN SUCH COURT.

f. If any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be contrary to law, void, invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such provision shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall continue to be valid and enforceable. If a Court finds that any provision of this Agreement is contrary to law, void, invalid or unenforceable and that by limiting such provision it would become valid and enforceable, then such provision shall be deemed to be written, construed, and enforced as so limited.

g. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, notwithstanding the date or dates upon which this Agreement is executed and delivered by any of the parties, and shall be deemed to be an original and all of which shall constitute one agreement effective as of the reference date first written below. An executed faxed copy of this Agreement shall be construed by all parties hereto as an original version of the Agreement.

h. CO-COUNSEL: Client authorizes Attorney to hire co-counsel or independent attorneys as needed, at Attorney's expense, to work on this matter and divide fees with them on the basis of work and responsibility. Client authorizes Attorney, at its discretion, to have attorneys within the firm, or outside counsel, review Client's file to explore other potential causes of action Client may have against creditors.

i. RECEIPT OF MANDATORY NOTICE AND DISCLOSURE: The Bankruptcy Abuse and Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 requires Attorney to provide mandatory notices/disclosures to Client. Signatures on this contract shall be acknowledgment by Client that Client has received, read, and understood the two (2) separate documents entitled "§527(a) Notice," and "Important information About Bankruptcy Assistance Services From An Attorney or Bankruptcy Petition Preparer."

IN WITNESS THEREOF, THE PARTIES hereto have set forth hands and seal in execution of this Agreement on: **20 SEPTEMBER 2016**

  
KELLY R. HESS

  
STEPHEN A. CLARK, ATTORNEY AT LAW

Cda/Pontiac  
Attn: Bankruptcy  
Po Box 213  
Streator, IL 61364

Cnac/in116  
Jd Byrider  
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Collections Specialists Inc  
PO Box 1156  
Anderson, IN 46015

CreditMax Inc  
Michael E Cook Esq  
12820 Coldwater Rd Ste G  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845-8754

Financial Data Systems  
Attn: Managing Officer/Agent  
1638 Military Cutoff Rd  
Wilmington, NC 28403

Frontier Communication  
19 John St  
Middletown, NY 10940

Madison County Clerk  
Case 48C01-0601-CC-00025  
16 E 9th St  
Anderson, IN 46016

Northwestern Medicine  
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Winfield, IL 60190

Online Collections  
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Winterville, NC 28590

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